

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 05388 011029 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01 RSR-01

/094 W

----- 095674

R 010836 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO CINCPAC HAWAII

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1487

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 5388

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, MOPS, CB

SUBJ: MEKONG CONVOYS

FOR POLAD ARMSTRONG

REF: CINCPAC HAWAII 232301 Z MAY 73

1. CONVOYS TO PHNOM PENH ARE SCHEDULED FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE RVN AND THE GKR AS REPRESENTED BY THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE TRIPARTITE DEPUTIES MEETINGS. GENERALLY, THESE CONVOYS FOLLOW A TEN DAY DELIVERY SCHEDULE TO PHNOM PENH. LIMITED STORAGE CAPACITY IN CIVILIAN TANK STORAGE FACILITIES IN PHNOM PENH IS THE PACING FACTOR AS TO HOW MUCH POL CAN BE SHIPPED AND RECEIVED. JP-4 IS ORDERED BY TELA KHMER TO MEET FANK REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNOUNCED CONVOY SAILINGS. REASONS JP-4 NOT INCLUDED IN RECENT CONVOYS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR LOADING AT NHA BE 9 APRIL 73:  
JP-4 WAS SCHEDULED FOR LOADING ON THE YU CHANG BUT THE YU CHANG DID NOT APPEAR AT NHA BE FOR LOADING BECAUSE YU CHANG CREW REFUSED TO SAIL ON MEKONG CONVOY. NO OTHER POL SHIPYARD CREW

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 05388 011029 Z

WERE AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT JP-4 TO PHNOM PENH.

B. CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR LOADING AT NHA BE 19 APRIL 73:  
CIVILIAN CREW AGAIN REFUSED TO SAIL ON THE YU CHANG IF JP-4  
LOADED. THE YU CHANG WAS THE ONLY AVAILABLE POL TANKER PREPARED  
TO ACCEPT JP-4. BECAUSE OF THE ABRUPT REFUSAL OF THE CIVILIAN  
CREW AND THE LACK OF OTHER CREWS AND POL SHIPS, JP-4 WAS NOT IN-  
CLUDED IN THE CONVOY. MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF THE SCHEDULE SAILING  
DATE, (25 APRIL) THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CLEAN OUT ANOTHER  
POL SHIP SO THAT IT COULD ACCEPT JP-4. ( NOTE: DUE TO THE UNIQUE  
NATURE OF THE JP-4 PRODUCT, THE TANKER CAN ACCEPT JP-4 ONLY IF  
THAT PRODUCT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CARRIED, OTHERWISE TIME CONSUMING  
SPECIAL CLEANING PROCEDURES ARE CALLED FOR.)

C. CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR LOADING AT NHA BE 23 APRIL 73:  
160 CUBIC METERS JP-4 LOADED ON THE YU CHANG BECAUSE THE OTHER  
JP-4 TANKS ABOARD WERE DAMAGED FROM A PREVIOUS ATTACK AND COULD  
NOT BE USED. PLANNED LOADING CALLED FOR 400 CUBIC METERS JP-4.

D. CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR LOADING AT NHA BE 6 MAY 73:  
VIRA I WAS SCHEDULED FOR LOADING WITH 500 CUBIC METERS JP-4 BUT  
WAS UNABLE TO TAKE THE LOAD BECAUSE THE TANKS WERE DAMAGED BY  
ENEMY ATTACK ON A PREVIOUS VOYAGE. THERE WAS NO OTHER  
TANKER AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT THE LOAD.

E. CONVOY ETA NHA BE 17 MAY 73 - TELA KHMER INFORMED THAT  
ALL CREWS WOULD REFUSE TO SAIL IF AVIATION PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN  
CONVOY. TELA KHMER REQUESTED THE GKR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE THAT  
AVIATION PRODUCTS BE EXCLUDED FROM CONVOY SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE  
RECEIPT OF OTHER PRODUCTS. THE CIVILIAN CREW THREAT CARRIED THE  
IMPLICATION THAT NONE OF THE SHIPS ON THIS CONVOY WOULD SAIL TO  
PHNOM PENH, THUS THREATENING THE CIVILIAN POPULACE WITH CRITICAL  
SHORTAGES OF OTHER NEEDED SUPPLIES; THEREFORE, AVGAS AND JP-4  
EXCLUDED. IN SPITE OF EXTRAORDINARY AND REPEATED EFFORTS BY MEDTC  
THE CONVOY SAILED WITHOUT JP-4.

2. TELA KHMER HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO IMPRESS ON SHIPPING AGENTS  
THE NEED TO EXERT MAXIMUM INFLUENCE ON CREWS TO INSURE TANKERS  
ARE PROPERLY MANNED AND READY TO SAIL WHEN LOADED WITH HIGHLY  
FLAMMABLE CARGO.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PHNOM 05388 011029 Z

3. AS IN THE PAST, MEDTC WILL CONTINUE TO COORDINATE WITH DAO SAIGON  
WITH REGARD TO INCLUSION OF JP-4 ON ALL MEKONG CONVOYS AND WILL  
CONTINUE TO MONITOR EACH CONVOY SO THAT ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES ARE  
PURSUED THAT JP-4 BE SHIPPED.

4. THE PROBLEM OF CREWS REFUSING TO SAIL THE MEKONG IS NOT CON-  
FINED TO POL TANKERS. WE HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT OFFICERS AND

CREW OF THE GENERAL CARGO VESSEL LUCKY STAR REFUSED TO JOIN THE  
28 MAY CONVOY BECAUSE OF CREW TREPIDATION ABOUT SECURITY ON THE  
MEKONG. THE LUCKY START IS PROCEEDING TO KOMPONG SOM.  
SWANK

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PHNOM05388  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730624/aaaajgpk.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980213  
**Subject:** MEKONG CONVOYS  
**TAGS:** EAID, MASS, MOPS, CB  
**To:** CINCPAC HAWAII  
EA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005